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OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SOCIETIES

IN CHARGE OF
MARY E. THORNTON

CONGRESS OF NURSES.

IN the work of forming a committee to convene a Congress of Nurses in Buffalo next summer, the officers of the Alumnæ and of the Superintendents' generally felt that the committee should be broadened so as to represent, as far as possible, all the different trends of evolutionary activity among nurses.

The officers of the Buffalo Association were consequently persuaded to stand on the committee as a whole representing the general club idea, and all of the American members of the International Council as representing the cosmopolitan and council idea.

A letter of invitation was then prepared as below, which is being distributed as widely as possible, and a short business letter followed, asking for delegates from nursing organizations.

The committee desire it to be made known that it is their wish not to overlook any such organization, and if this should unintentionally happen, the secretary of such association is asked to communicate with the secretary *pro tem*.

As this is the first time that American nurses have attempted the entire management of a nurses' congress, they hope to carry it out in accordance with the traditions of Western hospitality.

CONGRESS OF NURSES

TO BE HELD IN

BUFFALO, NEW YORK STATE, U.S.A.

IN THE

LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, 1901.

ORGANIZATIONS OF NURSES REPRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
CONVENING CONGRESS:

THE BUFFALO NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.

THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS FOR NURSES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

"INVITATION TO CONGRESS OF NURSES.

"The new century is near, and it must be the desire of all people that it may bring with it new promises for peace and hope and opportunity of rising into a higher and fuller life for all humanity.

"First among the impulses towards a more real and satisfying existence is the wish for acquaintance, the desire to establish friendly relations, the reaching after personal contact: that we may know our fellow-workers in other lands, exchange our thoughts with theirs, and feel the magic of association in common interests,—this is the spoken and unspoken urgency of to-day.

"We nurses feel this universal motive. Scattered over the earth, doing the one work wherever we are, we feel the need of knowing one another; we need one another's help, counsel, encouragement; we need to compare our methods, our aims, our results; we need organization, for our own strengthening, and for the perfecting of our ideals.

"Next September, in Buffalo, one of the Lake Cities of New York State, the people of Pan-America will meet in friendly gathering to commemorate the New Time.

"We American nurses, who also look forward to assembling within the hospitable walls of the Exposition City during the Pan-American celebrations, desire to make this occasion one for inviting a Congress of Nurses to gather here from all parts of the world. The Buffalo Nurses' Association offers a warm welcome and hospitality to all; the two oldest of our nurses' associations, the American Society of Superintendents and the National Alumnae, have already planned to hold their annual conferences there; the International Council of Nurses, lately formed, in which the United States and Canada have representation, will hold its second business meeting at the same time; and, we hope, our Order of War-Nurses may gather there also.

"It will be a rallying-time such as does not often come in our busy lives, and we therefore call upon you, our sister nurses of all lands, to meet us and let us meet you, in a congress where we may lay the foundations of new international affiliations to our mutual enrichment and to the upbuilding and advancement of our chosen work.

Signed,

"ANNIE DAMER,

President Buffalo Nurses' Association; Member Board of Women Managers
Pan-American Exposition.

"MRS. THOMAS MORLEY,

First Vice-President Buffalo Nurses' Association.

"CAROLINE STEELE,

Second Vice-President Buffalo Nurses' Association.

"JEANNETTE OLIVER, M.D.,

Recording Secretary Buffalo Nurses' Association.

"SYLVEEN A. NYE,

Corresponding Secretary Buffalo Nurses' Association.

"ADELAIDE MARSTON,

Director Buffalo Nurses' Association.

"MARGARET SIMPSON,

Director Buffalo Nurses' Association.

"A. T. GREENWOOD,

Director Buffalo Nurses' Association.

- "EMMA J. KEATING,
Superintendent of Nurses, Erie County Hospital; President American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses; Second Vice-President Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States.
- "ISABEL McISAAC,
Superintendent of Nurses, Illinois Training-School; ex-President American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "ISABEL MERRITT,
Superintendent of Nurses, Brooklyn City Hospital; First Vice-President American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "SOPHIA F. PALMER,
Superintendent Rochester City Hospital; Second Vice-President American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses; Editor-in-Chief AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING.
- "ANNA L. ALLINE,
Late Superintendent of Nurses, Brooklyn Homœopathic Hospital; Treasurer American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "LAVINIA L. DOCK,
Secretary American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses; Secretary International Council of Nurses.
- "C. E. MILNE,
Superintendent of Nurses, Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia; Auditor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "ALICE A. GRISWOLD,
Superintendent of Nurses, Boston Homœopathic Hospital; Auditor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "M. ADELAIDE NUTTING,
Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of School for Nurses, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Councillor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses; Councillor International Council of Nurses.
- "MARY M. RIDDLE,
Superintendent of Nurses, South Department, Boston City Hospital; Councillor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "ANNIE McDOWELL,
Superintendent Newton Hospital; Councillor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "LINDA RICHARDS,
Superintendent of Nurses, Taunton Insane Hospital; Councillor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.
- "MARY A. SNIVELY,
Lady Superintendent Toronto General Hospital; Councillor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses; Treasurer International Council of Nurses.
- "ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB,
Late Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of Training-School Johns Hopkins Hospital; President Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States; Councillor American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses.

- "EMMA C. HACKETT, M.D.,
First Vice-President Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States.
- "TAMAR HEALY,
Treasurer Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States.
- "MARY R. THORNTON,
Secretary Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States.
- "ANNIE MURRAY,
Late Superintendent of Nurses, Royal Victoria Hospital; Councillor International Council of Nurses.
- "AGNES BRENNAN,
Superintendent of Nurses, New York Training-School attached to Bellevue Hospital; Councillor International Council of Nurses.
- "LUCY QUINTARD,
Superintendent of Nurses, General Hospital, Puerto Principe, Cuba; Councillor International Council of Nurses.
- "LUCY WALKER,
Superintendent of Nurses, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia; Councillor International Council of Nurses.
- "HANNA KINDBOM,
Late Instructor of Clinical Nursing, University of Texas; Councillor International Council of Nurses.
- "MAUD BANFIELD,
Superintendent Polyclinic Hospital; Councillor International Council of Nurses."

[This letter is accompanied by a short business letter asking for delegates from all bodies of nurses.]

"To the Nurses of New York State.

"It is appropriate that at this time some information should be given of the progress of the proposed 'New York State Nurses' Association.' It was the intention of the committee that the matter should, if possible, be brought to the attention of every recognized hospital and of every trained nurse in the State, but as no directory of either exists, it has been found difficult to reach all.

"A list was made out which was intended to include all hospitals in the State in which a training-school existed or where trained nurses were employed. They were divided among the committee, with a request that they communicate with the superintendent and the graduates of the school, acquainting them with the plan and asking their co-operation and support, and requesting them to send delegates to the first meeting.

"The time and place of the meeting cannot be definitely settled until reports are received from all members of the committee.

"Albany has been suggested as a desirable city in which to hold the meeting, and the time will be decided as soon as the reports are all in. The members of the committee are all busy women, who have manifold duties besides organization work. Sympathetic and cordial responses have been received from many hospitals, and nurses have invariably shown much enthusiasm. We have no

doubt of the support of our profession. Our experience thus far indicates that the nurses of this State will act as a unit, and we also have reason to believe that we shall have the support of the medical profession. We should, for the interests of physicians and nurses are identical.

"In conclusion we wish to say: Due notice will be given of the time and place of the meeting through the nursing journals, and each hospital and alumnae association will also be informed. They would be announced at once if the reports from all the committee justified a decision.

"We also wish to say that we have endeavored to reach, either directly or indirectly, every hospital and every nurse in the State. It will be readily understood that with no records or directory for assistance some may have been omitted. We want all to know that no neglect is intended, and we will consider it a kindness if any such omission be reported to the chairman.

"SYLVEEN V. NYE,

"Chairman of Committee.

"404 PRUDENTIAL BUILDING, BUFFALO, NEW YORK."

RESOLUTIONS FORWARDED TO MISS STOWE

At a meeting of the Rhode Island Hospital Alumnae Association held on November 19, a committee appointed presented the following resolution:

"To Miss Emma S. Stowe.

"The members of the Rhode Island Hospital Alumnae Association wish you to know how sincerely they regret your departure from the hospital.

"During the nine years in which you have stood at the head of our Training-School, you have been always ready with words of sympathy and advice, and eager to do all in your power for our welfare. We feel that your aim is to maintain a high standard for nurses, and the recollection of your faithful, conscientious work inspires us to keep the standard where you have placed it.

"May the long-needed rest restore you to vigorous health, and enable you to take up your work buoyant and refreshed.

"Could we select for you, we should have you near us, and in a path richly glowing with sunshine.

"Signed on behalf of the association,

"SARA SHEARER GOWING,

"ELLEN A. KENNY,

"MARGARET WILSON."

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and it was voted that it be placed upon the records, and a copy forwarded to Miss Stowe by the secretary.



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

THE Alumnæ Association of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital held its annual dinner at Hotel Vendome, Tuesday, November 6. This proved one of the most successful gatherings of the association. The private dining-hall was tastefully decorated, an excellent dinner served, and a large number were present to enjoy it. After the dinner Dr. Abbott, of Boston, was introduced by the president and spoke on several questions of interest. Her remarks were followed by those of Miss Alice A. Griswold, superintendent of the Training-School, who spoke particularly of army nursing. Good music was provided, and all felt it to be a most profitable entertainment.

PRESBYTERIAN ALUMNÆ OF PHILADELPHIA RECEIVE A DONATION

At a meeting of the Alumnæ Association of the Training-School for Nurses of the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia, held October 21, 1900, the announcement was made to the members that the sum of six thousand dollars had been given to the hospital for the endowment of a bed in the hospital for the benefit of members of the Alumnæ Association.

This generous gift was the contribution of Mr. James T. Magee (a trustee of the hospital), together with his brother, William S. Magee, as a memorial to their father, Michael Magee, and under the following conditions:

"First. That the said bed shall be for the use of the members of the Alumnæ Association of the Training-School for Nurses of the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia.

"Second. That if said association at any time hereafter shall cease to exist, the bed shall be held by the hospital for the use of the graduate nurses of its Training-School.

"Third. That if the said association shall at any time hereafter make a contribution of four thousand dollars to the hospital it shall become entitled to the use of two free beds (one of which to be in its own name), or of a room in the Pay Patient Department of the hospital, the same as if the whole ten thousand dollars had been contributed by said association."

At the same meeting of the association the resolution was passed, unanimously, authorizing the contribution to the hospital of two thousand dollars, the sum in the treasury of the association at the present

date, to be added to the six thousand dollars for the further endowment of the bed for the use of the members of the Alumnæ Association.

A series of classes are being held by the Alumnæ Association every Monday afternoon at four P.M. in the parlor of the Nurses' Home, 28 North Thirty-ninth Street. These classes are on current events and are conducted by Miss Annie M. Earle, commencing in November and continuing through January. In these classes the society is joined by the members of the Alumnæ Associations of the Pennsylvania and University Hospitals.

PATERSON GENERAL, NEW JERSEY

AT the meeting of the alumnæ, held on December 4, the question of increasing the interest of members and procuring a better attendance at meetings was discussed, and at four P.M. Dr. Stewart, of Paterson, addressed the alumnæ; subject, "Auto-Suggestion."

NEW YORK CITY

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL ALUMNÆ are having a course of lectures by Mrs. J. T. Duryea on "Life and Character Building." The first was given on November 15 to a very large attendance.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, NURSES' CLUB*

ONE of the most attractive, cosy homes in the city is that on the corner of Twelfth and Marshall Streets, where the "Nurses' Club" has its head-quarters. The house is a big, roomy, three-story brick, and is approached through a well-kept front yard.

The Nurses' Club is an adjunct of the Alumnæ Association of Graduate Nurses of the Old Dominion Hospital, and its members are composed of these graduate nurses. The club was founded in 1898 by Miss Cabiniss, superintendent of the Old Dominion Hospital, for the purpose of providing a home for those nurses who should take up their profession in this city. Mrs. Durand was placed in charge, and since then all the domestic affairs of the establishment have been under her care.

When one enters the front hall of the Nurses' Club he is impressed by the air of comfort and refinement that pervades its every arrange-

* Taken from *Richmond Daily*.

ment. To the left is the parlor, a square, sunny room, fitted up with taste. It is a pretty room, and an open piano and a guitar, resting on the many-cushioned "cosey corner," give evidence of its frequent use.

Downstairs, in the roomy basement, two large rooms are used—one for the dining-room, and the other as a sitting-room, or for a sewing-room.

The bedrooms are bright and airy and prettily furnished. Their white iron beds, and crisp white curtains at the windows give them an air of freshness which is most attractive.

The occupants of the "Nurses' Club" now are Misses E. M. Washington, of Washington, D. C.; M. J. Moore, Natural Bridge, Virginia; C. H. Hudson, Eastern Shore, Virginia; E. N. Kellam, Eastern Shore, Virginia; R. C. White, Eastern Shore, Virginia, and Frances Jones, of Lynchburg, Virginia.

The young ladies who now live at the Nurses' Club are, with one or two exceptions, the same ones who were there when it was founded. Though none of them are originally from this city, they have made it their home, and follow their profession here.

The Alumnae Association of the Old Dominion Hospital, under whose auspices the club was founded, has recently been admitted to the Associate Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States. This association has for its aims the advancement of its members in professional work, the promotion of good-fellowship among nurses, a beneficent fund for sick-nurses, and a club for resident nurses. Its annual meeting is held on the Wednesday following the graduation exercises in June, and afterwards a banquet is given. The former banquets have been given at the Jefferson Hotel and at the Lakeside Inn.

All the members of the association are in sympathy with the Nurses' Club, though many of them, for various reasons, do not live there. Some reside in Richmond, and others work in other cities.

When, however, a member of the association visits Richmond, she generally is made the guest of the Nurses' Club.

The officers of the Alumnae Association are: President, Miss H. W. Barney; vice-president, Miss E. N. Kellam; secretary and treasurer, Miss R. E. Van Vort; Misses F. P. Ellyson, A. F. Hudson, E. M. Washington, E. N. Kellam, C. W. Krauthier, C. T. Woods, C. H. Johnston, Eloise Johnston, B. R. Wilson, H. W. Barney, L. G. Denzler, C. V. Austin, M. J. Moore, R. C. White, Frances Jones, A. W. McClung, E. H. Webb, M. E. Sweeny, R. E. Van Vort, J. I. Scott, and Mrs. J. Louis Douthat, *nee* Kerns.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

THE fifth monthly meeting of the Graduate Nurses' Association of Cleveland was held at the Lakeside Hospital on November 27, at two P.M. Thirty-five members were present. After the regular business of the society was disposed of, Mr. Starr Cadwalader, superintendent of the Goodrich Social Settlement of Cleveland, was introduced to the meeting. Mr. Cadwalader in a short address sketched the origin and development of the University Extension and Social Settlement work, and in addition told something of what had been accomplished in Cleveland.

In the discussion which followed the members showed a marked interest, several of them expressing the hope that in the near future this organization might be of practical assistance in providing suitable nursing for the poor of the city.

The next meeting, to be held in December, will be of a social nature, with a short talk and general discussion on nurses' settlements. The society is ambitious to form the nucleus of a nurse's settlement in Cleveland, and hopes at that meeting to receive some practical suggestions.

A QUESTION ANSWERED ***A REPLY TO THE QUESTION OFTEN ASKED, "OF WHAT BENEFIT WILL THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ BE TO ME?"**

I AM a nurse—self-supporting, self-dependent, and hard-working. The profession of nursing which I have adopted is severely exacting, often closely confining, and frequently carried on under the saddest and most distressing circumstances. If I concentrate my whole being on it and devote my entire self to it,—to the exclusion of all else,—I become a one-sided person, a creature with but one set of ideas. I lose all else of life and am almost a machine—a skilful one, perhaps, a tender one, perhaps. But is this the end for which I was created? May I not labor with love at the work which I chose among the sick and suffering, without having to give up all touch with the world of vitality, of energy, of growth, of struggle towards advancement? Must the whole world go on and I stand still? I can see around me my sisters, who—in churchly orders, in semi-military organization—have so renounced all else that they might devote themselves only to this one work. What does my reason teach me of the result of their lives and

* Read before the Third Annual Convention of the Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses, held at New York, May 3, 4, and 5, 1900.

unselfish labors? Why, that in spite of all their heroic virtues, of unselfish tenderness, courage, and faithfulness, they pass away, leaving everything just the same as it was before. Their lives are spent in mitigating suffering, but the supply of suffering is not lessened by their self-sacrificing devotion. They raise no voice of protest against the many needless causes of human suffering. They do but obey. But obedience is not the highest attribute of the human being, neither is self-abnegation, nor self-effacement in ministering service.

I am a woman, and standing singly and alone I am but a feeble human unit. My voice alone is not heard far. My efforts alone do not reach far, for I am not one of those great and gifted ones who rise once or twice in a century and whose lighted candle shines so that the whole world may see it and feel its rays. I am only one of the plain people, of whom Lincoln said, "God must love them, because He made so many." I tread daily a little, restricted circle. I long for a wider and fuller life. I see around me other people moving in larger paths, radiating influence, exerting unimagined strength, and full of enthusiastic purposes. I watch them and see that it is because they are moving in harmony and supplementing one another's efforts that they have more freedom, more power, and more meaning than I. Cannot I do the same?

You are here to-day because you have felt this urging to a fuller life, and because you feel the attraction of this power of union. Yet there are those who, still walled in by the narrow life, ask you, "What good will association be to me?" "What will this association do for me?" What may it *not* do for me? Let us rather ask, "What good is there that I may *not* attain through the combined strength and courage of all my fellows?" The little morsel of protoplasm upon the shore might ask, "What good will association do for me?" The brain-cell or cardiac fibre in the pause of the thrilling, intense, and necessary share of a rich and complicated life knows what association can do.

I cannot tell all that this association can do for me in the future, when I have attained to capacities which I do not now possess, but it will do much for me at present.

First. It will give me self-confidence; help me in adjusting and expressing my ideas; make me a better-balanced and more steadily poised woman than I now am.

Second. It will lessen my egotism, the result of a narrow and self-centred life, and diminish that provincial spirit which makes me see myself in the centre of the universe out of all proportion to everything about me.

Do these two statements seem contradictory? They are not so.

Self-confidence comes as self-conceit goes. Balance and solidity are only reached when a true sense of proportion is gained. When I go about the world with a chip on my shoulder it is because I have not yet outgrown the mental habits of primitive man.

Third. It will enlarge my horizon to meet with my fellows. They will stimulate me with their different ideas and ways, and I may in turn help them in the same way.

Fourth. I shall gain from my association new powers for achievement and new prestige with the public. Such things as I might not be able to do alone I can do as one of a body, animated by the common motive of all its members, and other persons and other organized bodies, who would not look at me a second time if I went before them as an individual, will offer me consideration and regard me with interest as one of a united force of wills and purposes. So strengthened, I can hope to exert an influence such as would be undreamed of by me in my single and unassociated capacity. I may hope through my association to have a place in the affairs of the world; to be welcomed in the councils of other women—and men too; to be considered as a factor in the works of reform, of education, and of progress.

The ministers say every sermon should have a practical application, and it is time for mine to be made.

The work of trained nurses is becoming more responsible and more important every day, but no legal or professional restrictions or conditions are imposed upon us by the public. Hospital managers who wish to open a training-school may do so without supervision, check, or restraint. We are held to the full responsibility. But they, who should be first so held, are not responsible. Shall we go on so, content if we make our own two ends meet, without thinking of the future? To whose hands shall fall the task of regulating the future status of nurses? If we do not seize it, we may find too late that others have done so, whose ideals are not ours, and whose standards hold us in a condition of servitude. It must be *our* responsibility to study the whole question of the nurses' education. *We* must take an interest in the future of nurses yet untrained. Singly we can do much. Together we can do more. This is one of the greatest things the association can do for me, that it can enable me to make definite, clear, systematic connections with all persons, be they individual or in masses, who have anything to do with educational standards in nursing. And then the next question that arises is, "What can *I* do for my association?" This you will all have to answer.

And let me also say to you, timid or indolent and indifferent souls who are not here to-day, that even if you will not take the trouble to

take part in federated life, even while you sit back and say, "The association is no use to me," it is not true. Whether you will or not, you benefit by it, and cannot help but be so benefited. What it strives for and accomplishes affects you; what it gains is a gain to you; what position it reaches for the elevation of nurses is reflected on you. If you doubt this, inquire of college men and women, inquire of labor unions among working men and women, and learn that the advantages gained by an association are shared by those who have *not* joined it, as well as by those who have. The victories gained by labor unions have an influence in keeping up the wages of the man who will not join the union, who does not see "what good it will be to him," and the standard of collegiate education attained by the striving of public-spirited minds working in voluntary association helps to lift the little, narrow private school out of its individual self-complacency.

Let us, then, associate closely and widely. It will be such an education for us as we can never receive in any other way. It will bring such stimulus and interest into our lives as we cannot now imagine. Let us associate together, all over our own country, and presently it will not be wide enough, and we shall want international organization to bring us into friendly and helpful relations with nurses and other workers of other lands. There are some farther ahead than we, and others not so far. These we may in turn help and strengthen, while trying to catch up with those who have gone on. We do not now at all realize what we may thus be to others, or how much they may need us.

Let me suggest in closing that the association will be of more good to us and we to it in proportion as we construct our membership liberally and in a flexible system; similarity of ideas, equality of aspiration towards ideals, would be a better membership basis for us than similarity of examination-papers and diplomas.

In our present formative stage we need not so much to demonstrate a certain present standard as to unite in common effort all those desirous of working towards a higher standard for the future.

[Each number will have, in this department, one of the papers read before the convention of May, 1900; the one on "Hourly Nursing" will no doubt be of special interest to "Graduate Nurse," who asks in the Christmas number for suggestions as to methods of starting such work in New York City.—ED.]

